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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 12 December 2007 from the representatives of Austria, Belarus, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

On behalf of our countries, we have the honour to request the convening, at the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, of a thematic debate on human trafficking.

In this year, when the international community commemorates the bicentennial of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, millions of human beings continue to suffer from human trafficking. The majority of these victims are women and children.

Trafficking in persons in the twenty-first century is recognized as a major challenge and a serious threat to human dignity. We feel that now there is a unique opportunity to make a decisive declaration of political will to defeat the evil of modern slavery. The General Assembly is best positioned to accomplish this task.

As the United Nations chief deliberative, policymaking and coordinating body, the General Assembly must take the lead in laying out the multilateral vision of an effective and successful fight against the scourge of human trafficking. The thematic debate, along with the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to be held in February 2008, could ensure a significant advance in rallying the efforts of the international community aimed at abolishing human trafficking.

We hope that you will give this proposal your serious consideration and support and would like to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 106.

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